

FLATHEAD REGIONAL WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT GROUP  
MINUTES OF MARCH 8 2011  
11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM A & B  
EARL BENNETT BUILDING  
KALISPELL, MONTANA

Members Present

Turner Askew  
Kate Cassidy  
Ned Cooney  
Clint Folden  
Pam Holmquist  
Shari Johnson  
Marc Liechti  
Larry Van Rinsum  
Joe Russell  
Donny Saisbury  
Michael Shepard  
Jim Simpson  
Julie Spencer  
Susie Turner  
Chuck Wilholt

Others

Judel Buls  
Lisa Dennison

Call to Order

Ned Cooney, Flathead Regional Wastewater Management Group (FRWMG) Facilitator, called the meeting to order at 11:02 A.M.

Public Comments

Judel Buls –

Judel Buls announced that she traveled to Helena to meet with Jason Gildea to review the map that he presented to the FRWMG during the October 2010 meeting. He has made a significant amount of GIS updates to the map including the addition of more septs, storm sewers, and collection systems. However, the map is only up-to-date as of 2009 and it only covers to Lake County. Also, the map does not include county zoning, city boundaries, or sewer district boundaries. Buls said that Gildea would be willing to share the GIS files if the Group needed any of the information that is on the map.

Buls mentioned that the discussed map was used to create a nutrient model. To obtain the nutrient model, the Group would need to speak with the DEQ. Buls said that obtaining the model would be beneficial and would allow the Group to conduct scenario planning.

Request for Qualifications – Review Draft, Form Selection Committee

A draft Request for Qualifications (RFQ) was distributed to the Group. The RFQ is for a request for providing engineering/hydrogeological and mapping services to Flathead County. The Group reviewed the RFQ. Joe Russell said that not all of the activities that the Group has discussed are on the RFQ. Although the RFQ may have been revised to include less then what the Group had discussed, it will still carry out the Group's main objectives. Some of the material that was left out of the RFQ included information on sensitivities of areas, groundwater, and soil types. The excluded information would be left up to the engineer to perform without the Group's prompting.

Jim Simpson said that having Pam Holmquist, County Commissioner, involved in the FRWMG's discussions has been beneficial but it would also be valuable to include other decision makers in the Group's discussions and activities. Other decision makers to include would be those from surrounding counties and cities, and smaller sewer districts that are outside of city limits. The Group agreed. Shari Johnson referred to the information presented by Buls and inquired about using that information in their mapping duties. Using that information may also require fewer funds to be used towards the work listed

in the RFQ. Kate Cassidy said that she spoke with Gildea who said that he would be willing to send the Group a copy of the discussed DEQ model. The Group agreed that with the model from Gildea, it would not be necessary to create an entirely new map but they would need someone to implement additional data to the existing model. There was further general discussion regarding the proposed model. Russell suggested that they include the usage of the model in the scope of work listed in the RFQ. The Group will need to obtain the specific title of the DEQ model.

There was a discussion regarding the Group's scope of work that is detailed in the grant. Their scope of work consists of:

- Identify sewer service planning areas
- Provide coordination between sewer service entities
- Provide coordination between planning board and elected officials regarding proposed developments
- Aid in compliance of pending TMDL study and wastewater discharge permits on the Flathead Lake
- Provide technical understanding of on-site sewage treatment system contributions
- Create watershed approach to wastewater management.

It is expected that the Group create a report to address how the above activities will be done. Johnson suggested that the RFQ point to the scope of work detailed in the grant application and then provide a list of resources that the Group expects the consultant to utilize. The expectations would include the ability to use the discussed model, experience working with groups, and have enough familiarity with the DNRC to construct the required report.

Holmquist said that after looking through the grant paperwork, she was able to create a list containing the scope of work that she would like to see the Group focus on. The Group received a copy of the list.

Russell said that with the recent information brought to the Group, he would recommend making several modifications to the scope of work in the RFQ. The modifications include:

1. Developing a DNRC defensible report.
2. Utilize the discussed DEQ model on sewage contribution to Flathead Lake by area.
3. Compilation of data that may be lacking among the DEQ model.
4. Develop a planning tool and appropriate use of the DEQ model that may guide the use of on-site sewage treatment versus the extension of public sewage in areas.

Cooney recommended that the Group establish a selection committee to review the submitted RFQs. The Group should have the RFQs by the third week in April. The Group selected several individuals to form the RFQ selection committee. The individuals include:

Shari Johnson  
Marc Liechti  
Joe Russell and/or Kate Cassidy  
Julie Spencer  
Susie Turner  
Mike Shepard (If he is available at that time)  
Turner Askew (If Shepard is unavailable)

#### Continue Planning Process for a Regional Wastewater Plan

##### Next Steps –

Johnson expressed the need to have reports brought forth from each respective treatment facility concerning their current status and their plans for the future. Shepard stated that Cassidy's 2007 report to the Board of Health provides the overview of the respective facilities and their plans. Russell suggested

that they obtain updates from every facility and then merge it into the existing report. He also recommended that the usage of the updated 2007 report be included in the scope of work in the RFQ. The Group discussed posting the 2007 report on the website for all publicly owned treatment work (POTW) entities to review. Then, the Group can establish parameters on what they need to know from every POTW. The Group also discussed having FRWMG members obtain information on their respective facility and bring it to the next meeting to update the 2007 report.

Buls said that there will be a nutrient trading training workshop in Helena on April 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. She and Turner will be conducting a presentation during that workshop. Turner will provide information concerning issues with the Kalispell Wastewater Treatment Plant and Buls will be providing data on the Flathead Lake nutrient management plan from 2010. Buls offered to present this information to the FRWMG during next month's meeting.

Russell said that he will make the needed modifications to the RFQ and send it to the Group for review. He may also submit a RFQ press release.

The next FRWMG meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 12<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. at the Health Department. By next month's meeting the Group will have had a chance to review the 2007 report to the Board of Health. Then, during the meeting, they will evaluate the report for any missing and/or new information and discuss the updating process. The Group will also hear a presentation from Buls.

The meeting adjourned at 12:47 P.M.

Lisa Dennison, Secretary